# Help FAA Identify Unauthorized

## LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT





U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is responsible for aviation safety in the United States and its territories. To help ensure the safety of persons and property on the ground and those onboard an unauthorized low-flying aircraft, FAA asks that anyone seeing an unauthorized low-flying aircraft to report that sighting to the nearest FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), the preferred notification point, or the nearest FAA Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility. That ATC facility will then notify the appropriate FSDO. The telephone number for each type office may be found in your local telephone directory under U.S. Government. The number may be listed under Transportation, Department of or under Federal Aviation Administration, Telephone numbers and addresses of many FAA facilities are listed on the Internet at www.faa.gov. Check under the listing for "FAA Organizations," You can also check in "Public Inquiry" under "Low Flying Aircraft" to access FSDO locations.

FAA takes any complaint of an alleged violation of a Federal Aviation Regulation seriously. To aid in any investigation, the FAA FSDO aviation safety inspector assigned to the case will require as much information as possible to help identify the aircraft involved in the alleged incident.

The following information will aid in the investigation. Please keep a record of any information you provide FAA. You may want to write out a brief statement describing what you saw before you contact FAA to ensure you can provide as much information as possible and to help you organize the information. If your complaint results in an enforcement action, you may be required to testify or provide a written statement in the case.

#### DESIRED INFORMATION

You need to provide FAA as much of the following information as possible. A brief summary of what happened, where did it happen, when did it happen, how did it happen, and who did it, if known, is important. The FSDO will use the information to determine if a regulatory violation occurred and to help identify and locate the aircraft involved.

Please remember that not all low-flying aircraft are in violation of a regulation.

#### SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

Did you take any photographs or video of the event? If so, what type and focal length of lens was used? If a zoom type lens was used, was the lens zoomed in or out?

Were you able to zoom in on the aircraft's registration number, if it had one, to help identify the aircraft?

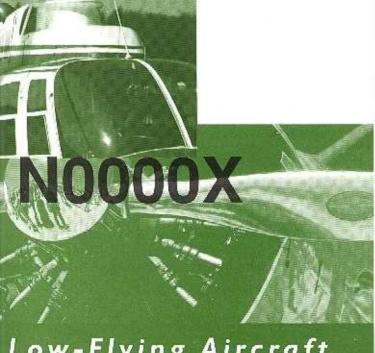
Did you try to photograph or video the aircraft against a background that would show height such as against a tall building, tower, hill, mountain, or other such object to aid in determining the aircraft's altitude? Please note, it is preferable to photograph the aircraft using a "normal" lens setting to avoid any misleading sized images caused by the compressive effects of a zoom or telephoto lens setting beyond the "normal" lens setting for the type of camera used.

If an object is included in the photograph or video to help show the aircraft's height, do you know the object's height?

If you photographed or videotaped the aircraft in flight from another aircraft, what was your aircraft's altitude when the photograph was taken or the video was made?

If film was used to photograph the aircraft, it is better if the negatives are not cut into smaller sections. You can ask your processor not to cut the film.

It is important to keep positive control of any type of recording media used to record the incident.



Low-Flying Aircraft

#### THE REGULATION

Please note there are instances when an aircraft may be operated in flight below these regulations with proper FAA approval. In addition, there are designated low-level military training routes where military aircraft may operate from the surface up to a specified altitude in visual and instrument meteorological conditions.

#### THE RULE

Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 91.119, Minimum safe altitudes, prohibits low flying except under the following conditions:

"Sec. 91.119 Minimum safe altitudes: General. Except when necessary for takeoff or landing, no person may operate an aircraft below the following altitudes: (a) Anywhere. An altitude allowing, if a power unit fails, an emergency landing without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface. (b) Over congested areas. Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft, (c) Over other than congested areas. An altitude of 500 feet above the surface, except over open water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure. (d) Helicopters. Helicopters may be operated at less than the minimums prescribed in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section if the operation is conducted without hazard to persons or property on the surface. In addition, each person operating a helicopter shall comply with any routes or altitudes specifically prescribed for helicopters by the Administrator"

### DO YOUR PART: REPORT LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT

Your help is needed in preventing unauthorized low-flying aircraft. Do your part, report such flying to the FAA.

For more information, you can write to the Federal Aviation Administration, General Aviation and Commercial Division, Operations Branch, AFS-820, 800 Independence Ave., SW, Washington DC 20591. The telephone number is 202-267-8212.

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Aviation
Administration

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